

**BEFORE HEARING COMMISSIONERS
APPOINTED BY TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Consent No: 5262-3.0

UNDER THE Resource Management Act 1991 ("Act")

IN THE MATTER OF an application for resource consent discharge emissions into the air from a free range poultry farming operation

BETWEEN **AIRPORT FARM TRUSTEE LTD**

Applicant

AND **TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Consent authority

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF SUE JENSEN-GORRIE ON BEHALF OF
VARIOUS SUBMITTERS (THE MCDONALDS, THE HIBELLS, THE BROWNS &
POPPAS PEPPERS 2009 LTD)**

4 FEBRUARY 2022

Name and situation

1. My full name is Susan Ruth Jensen-Gorrie. I made a submission in opposition to the consent application on behalf of Poppas Peppers 2009 Ltd ("Poppas Peppers").
2. Poppas Peppers operates from 35 Airport Drive, which is shown located to the west of the applicant's site, as follows (orange outline):



3. Poppas Peppers is a family-owned high-tech capsicum growing business which has been operating on this sight since 1993. We supply 220 tonnes of capsicum annually to the New Zealand local market from our 7200m² greenhouse. We employ 9 fulltime staff to assist with picking, packing and crop maintenance/pruning.
4. We live on site, our dwelling is situated at the front of the property close to the road.

Effects of AFT's current operations on Poppas Peppers

5. Offensive odour from the chicken farm is ongoing and regular. People frequently visit or home and business, and we are often asked if we have just put manure in our greenhouses. We have to explain that we run a fully

contained hydroponic reticulation irrigation system that recycles any runoff. We do not use organic fertilisers which emit odour. The smell is coming from the chicken sheds up the road.

6. As I understand it, my father Kit Jensen provided written approval for the original resource consent application for the chicken sheds on Airport Drive in 1998. He also agreed to the last application to renew the consent to extend its operations. However, he was under the belief that operations would then end in 2026, and further consents would not be sought (or granted). My father would not have agreed to the last renewal if he had understood that it could be further extended, as he had invested in this land for future redevelopment in his retirement. If the chicken sheds continue past this date originally agreed upon, the ability to subdivide and develop a desirable residential zone is not going to be as expected.
7. At present, the odour is really awful. It varies, but we tend to find it more noticeable in the morning when we walk outside to the car to drop my daughter off at school, but also sometimes during the day and at night. I do not hang washing outside on these days. Sometimes it is stronger than others depending on which way the wind is blowing.
8. In my 12yr old daughters' words "it smells disgusting, horrible and like something has died". I explain it as an effluent kind of smell, which is embarrassing when we have visitors. I understand that AFT has introduced new equipment, but we have not noticed any improvement.
9. Along with other neighbours, we have at times called TRC and complained but nothing seems to ever be proven, by the time the officer arrives the smell is gone. We believed the AFT operation was not going to be forever (ending 2026) so just carry on and ignore the disruption to our lives, as good neighbours, letting AFT get on with what they do with what time they have left. We were extremely surprised when this request to seek a further resource consent came through, as we have always had the belief it will end in 2026 as per the earlier agreements at the time of the last re-consent.
10. This belief was further supported when we attended the meeting at NPDC in November 2014 regarding the rezoning of area Q. Ed Whiting and his family took the floor in a very emotional way, requesting NPDC rezone his

land the same time as area Q as he believed he would not operate past 2026 due to the inability to gain consent. This is in line with our belief at the last re-consenting process that it was agreed for the end date of operations was to be 2026.

11. During this meeting Ed Whiting pointed out all of us neighbours to his children telling them that we are the ones in control of their future. The bigger picture here is it is not just about his family being affected –*ALL* of our families are affected by the horrid smell, dust and noise emitted by his operation.
12. Ed Whiting says there has been no complaints, but I am aware that many surrounding neighbours have complained, and we often discuss “how stinky it was the other day” when bump into each other.
13. At the pre-hearing meeting on 18 November 2021, Ed Whiting commented that we were all against him and he wanted us to know he’s not a bad person. I would like to point out I have never met Ed Whiting, and this is most definitely not about him personally, this is about the fact we believed the resource consent expires in 2026, AFT trying to extend past this originally agreed point is messing with a lot of peoples’ lives, many who have had this date in their heads for their retirement for many years. These people are now in their late 70’s and 80’s and agreed to the original consent and its last replacement out of good faith believing the Taranaki Regional Council resource consent process would protect them and their future.
14. We have all been very tolerant and patient with the whole situation. If we were aware that AFT had a chance of being able to renew the resource consent beyond 2026, I can guarantee there would have been multiple complaints from all our surrounding neighbours, it was a common discussion amongst us but we always said, “oh well it’s not for too much longer”.

CONCLUSIONS

15. I believe this operations should not be allowed to go beyond the current expiry date being 2026, as the effects and stress caused by the terrible smell, noise and dust is not something we expected to be ongoing. It is severely affecting people’s health and well being in the area, be it medically

or mentally. We get disrupted sleep some nights due to noisy trucks and we are fed up with the smell and dust.

Sue Jensen-Gorrie

4 February 2022